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Senator Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

You have been a great friend of the agricultural industry for many years. Your continued support of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln/Agricultural Research Service building that will be located at UNL's new Nebraska Innovation Campus and the leadership you displayed in obtaining planning and initial construction funding is also greatly appreciated.

The collaborative efforts of ARS researchers and IANR scientists in Nebraska have resulted in our state becoming a national leader in bioenergy research. The dollars invested in a building on the new Nebraska Innovation Campus will not only pay dividends to our state; but also benefit our great nation. It is important to continue to lessen our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

Agriculture's importance to Nebraska is well documented. To keep agriculture healthy, strong, and profitable; and in order to feed a growing world; we must also keep research strong. The building at the new Nebraska Innovation Campus would do just that . . . provide research for Nebraska's number one industry and allow our farmers and ranchers to remain competitive in a global market.

As an agricultural lender I work closely with Nebraska farmers and ranchers. The farmers and ranchers that I work with understand that spending money and choosing what they spend it on has a large impact on the success of their farming or ranching business. This is one of those times that I think funding for a project would be well spent.

Additionally, I currently serve as Chairman of the Board for the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council which is the governing board for the Nebraska LEAD Program. In fact, I was a member of Nebraska LEAD Group III several years ago. Since 1981, over 800 Nebraskans have participated in the Nebraska LEAD Program with over 80% being farmers and ranchers . . . those who rely on current and important research to remain competitive and profitable. I know that you will do all you can to make sure that funding for this project is appropriated.

Thank for your time and I appreciate all the work you do for are state.

Best regards,



Doug Johnson